

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing system for offering prepaid services via a network connection comprising:

web-site system hardware connected to a network via the network connection for maintaining at least one web-site, the at least one web-site offering a plurality of prepaid services and accessible by a plurality of end-users via the network connection for purchasing one of at least one of the plurality of prepaid services and usage rights for at least one of the plurality of prepaid services;

a plurality of databases connected to the web-site system hardware and containing prepaid services end-user usage information transferred thereto by the web-site system hardware, the end-user usage information being accessible by a set of end-users of the plurality of end-users via the at least one web-site; and

a customer profile database connected to the web-site system hardware and containing information pertaining to the set of end-users.

2. The system according to Claim 1, further comprising network hardware connected to the web-site system hardware via a dedicated link for enabling at least one end-user of the plurality of end-users to access a web-site of the at least one web-site via another network connection.

3. The system according to Claim 2, wherein the network hardware is configured for enabling at least one customer of a system operator of the system to utilize the system for offering the plurality of prepaid services to at least one of the plurality of end-users.

5 4. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the set of end-users of the plurality of end-users are one of customers of a system operator of the system and customers of at least one outside system operator of the system.

5. The system according to Claim 4, wherein the at least one outside system operator is selected from the group consisting of wholesalers, online retailers, system developers, ISPs and other business entities.

6. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the web-site system hardware is configured for communicating with a prepaid services allocation system for receiving the prepaid services end-user information for storage within the plurality of databases.

15 7. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the system is configured for providing to the plurality of end-users the at least one purchased prepaid service or usage rights of the at least one of the plurality of prepaid services in real-time.

8. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the system is configured for allocating one of a PIN and a unique identifier to each end-user of the set of end-users of the plurality of end-users.

9. The system according to Claim 8, wherein the PIN and the unique identifier are allocated in real-time.

10. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the information pertaining to the set of end-users includes identifying and payment information corresponding to each of the end-users of the set of end-users.

11. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the web-site system hardware includes a plurality of software modules for maintaining the at least one web-site.

12. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the network is one of a LAN and WAN and the at least one web-site is a company intranet web-site.

13. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the system is configured for initiating a payment verification process upon an end-user of the plurality of end-users initiating a payment transaction.

14. The system according to Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of prepaid services is selected from the group consisting of prepaid calling cards, prepaid Internet access, prepaid telephony, prepaid paging, prepaid cellular, prepaid cable television, prepaid travel and entertainment tickets, prepaid utilities, prepaid Internet hosting, prepaid gasoline, and prepaid heating oil.

15. The system according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one web-site offers two or more of the plurality of prepaid services as prepaid bundled-service packages.

16. A method for operating an information processing system offering prepaid services via a network connection, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a web-site system hardware connected to a network via the network connection for maintaining at least one web-site, the at least one web-site offering a plurality of prepaid services and accessible by a plurality of end-users via the network connection for purchasing one of at least one of the plurality of prepaid services and usage rights for at least one of the plurality of prepaid services;

providing a plurality of databases connected to the web-site system hardware and containing prepaid services end-user usage information transferred thereto by the web-site system hardware, the end-user usage information being accessible by a set of end-users of the plurality of end-users via the at least one web-site; and

providing a customer profile database connected to the web-site system hardware and containing information pertaining to the set of end-users.

17. The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of providing network hardware connected to the web-site system hardware via a dedicated link for enabling at least one end-user of the plurality of end-users to access a web-site of the at least one web-site via another network connection.

18. The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of enabling at least one customer of a system operator of the system to utilize the system for offering the plurality of prepaid services to at least one of the plurality of end-users.

19. The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of communicating with a prepaid services allocation system for receiving the prepaid services end-user information for storage within the plurality of databases.

20. The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of providing to the plurality of end-users the at least one purchased prepaid service or usage rights of the at least one of the plurality of prepaid services in real-time.

21. The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of allocating one of a PIN and a unique identifier to each end-user of the set of end-users of the plurality of end-users.

22. The method according to Claim 21, wherein the allocating step allocates the PIN and the unique identifier in real-time.

23. The method according to Claim 16, wherein the information pertaining to the set of end-users includes identifying and payment information corresponding to each of the end-users of the set of end-users.

24. The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of providing a plurality of software modules for maintaining the at least one web-site.

25. The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of initiating a payment verification process upon an end-user of the plurality of end-users initiating a payment transaction.

26. The method according to Claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of prepaid services is selected from the group consisting of prepaid calling cards, prepaid

Internet access, prepaid telephony, prepaid paging, prepaid cellular, prepaid cable television, prepaid travel and entertainment tickets, prepaid utilities, prepaid Internet hosting, prepaid gasoline, and prepaid heating oil.

27. The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of offering two or more of the plurality of prepaid services as prepaid bundled-service packages.

28. The method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of charging the at least one customer of the system operator a predetermined usage fee for utilizing the system for offering the plurality of prepaid services to the at least one of the plurality of end-users.